

Senate Joint Resolution 11 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11
BY FEENSTRA

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1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa relating to the political party
3 affiliations of the membership of the state judicial
4 nominating commission and district judicial nominating
5 commissions.
6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 Section 16, unnumbered paragraph 3, of Article V of the
4 Constitution of the State of Iowa, as added by the Amendment of
5 1962, is amended beginning July 1, 2015, to read as follows:

6 Due consideration shall be given to area representation in
7 the appointment and election of judicial nominating commission
8 members. Appointive and elective members of judicial
9 nominating commissions shall serve for six-year terms, shall be
10 ineligible for a second six-year term on the same commission,
11 shall hold no office of profit of the United States or of the
12 state during their terms, ~~shall be chosen without reference to~~
13 ~~political affiliation,~~ and shall have such other qualifications
14 as may be prescribed by law. No more than a simple majority of
15 the members appointed or of the members elected shall belong
16 to the same political party. As near as may be, the terms of
17 one-third of such members shall expire every two years.

18 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment
19 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the
20 general assembly to be chosen at the next general election
21 for members of the general assembly, and the secretary of
22 state is directed to cause the same to be published for three
23 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as
24 provided by law.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
27 Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to the political
28 affiliation of the membership of the state judicial nominating
29 commission and district judicial nominating commissions.

30 The resolution specifies that the membership of the state
31 judicial nominating commission and the district judicial
32 nominating commissions shall not consist of more than a simple
33 majority from the same political party. The membership of
34 these commissions consists of an equal number of members
35 appointed by the governor and members elected by the bar. The

1 most senior judge of each judicial district also serves on that
2 district judicial nominating commission and the most senior
3 justice, other than the chief justice, serves on the state
4 judicial nominating commission.

5 The state judicial nominating commission nominates persons
6 for appointment by the governor to the supreme court and court
7 of appeals and each district judicial nominating commission
8 nominates persons for appointment by the governor to the
9 district court bench.

10 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
11 general assembly (Eighty-fifth) for adoption before the
12 amendment is submitted to the electorate for ratification.